

Message Text

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44

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EA-07 EB-05 IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /074 W

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P 081045Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5699

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AIDAC

EO 11652: NA

SUBJ: VIETNAM PURCHASING MISSION

REF: STATE 153223

1. ASSISTANT DCA, VU TON, SCHEDULED DEPART FOR US IN APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS TO SET UP GVN PURCHASING OFFICE IN WASHINGTON DC BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1. FYI: APPOINTMENT OF TOAN NOT CONFIRMED BUT HIGHLY PROBABLE. LENGTH OF STAY UNDETERMINED. END FYI.

2. TOAN'S INITIAL EFFORTS WILL BE TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE AND DEVELOP CHANNELS FOR TRANSECTING RICE AND CERTAIN CLA PROCUREMENTS. SUBSEQUENTLY CONSIDER ADDING OTHER GVN PURCHASING OF BULK COMMODITIES.

3. MISSION SHARES AID/W CONCERN OVER PROPOSED BROADENING OF ACTIVITIES BY PURCHASING OFFICE TO COVER NON-GOVERNMENT PURCHASES. WITH CONTINUOUS USAID/CIP GUIDANCE, GVN BEGINNING TO LEARN HOW TO MONITOR FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM FOR COMMERCIAL IMPORTS WITH DIMINISHING USAID PARTICIPATION AND CONTROL AND IS CONSTANTLY REDUCING PROCEDURAL BARNACLES. INTERPOSING A LAYER OF GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY BETWEEN VN IMPORTER AND US SUPPLIER WOULD BE A MAJOR AND SERIOUS STEP BACKWARDS. MOST CERTAINLY IT WOULD ADD, NOT REDUCE, OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORRUPTION.

4. CONSIDER PURCHASING OFFICE COULD PERFORM HIGHLY USEFUL FUNCTIONS IN:

(A) BULK PURCHASE OF RICE;

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(B) TRANSACTING CLA BUSINESS FOR EMERGENCY SPARE PARTS PROCURE-

MENT;

(C) ASSISTING VN IMPORT COMMUNITY IN LOCATING SUPPLIERS; AND

(D) INTERVENING ON BEHALF OF VN IMPORTERS IN CASES OF NON-PERFORMANCE OR OTHER TRADE DISPUTES.

ALSO ENVISION COORDINATION SOME OTHER PROCUREMENT, HOWEVER, BELIEVE FUNCTIONS SHOULD BE ADDED SELECTIVELY AND AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

ALSO FEEL CONSIDERATION OF QUESTION OF TRANSFER FERTILIZER PROCUREMENT

FROM CHANNELS NOW IN USE BE POSTPONED UNTIL PURCHASING OFFICE ESTABLISHED AND FUNCTIONING WITH PROVEN EFFICIENCY. MARTIN

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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